

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

17/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Árpád János Potápi: HUF 1.6 billion for the support of Hungarian education and culture abroad and diaspora communities

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi announced the results of two calls for application with a total budget of HUF 1.6 billion (EUR 5 million). The first – with a budget of HUF 1.1 billion/EUR 3.4 million – focuses on the support of Hungarian education and culture in the Carpathian Basin. The second – with a budget of HUF 500 million/EUR 1.5 million – focuses on support for Hungarian organizations and weekend schools in the diaspora (territories outside the Carpathian Basin). The state secretary stressed that the aim of the calls for applications is to help the permanence and prosperity of Hungarians living outside the borders of Hungary and to strengthen their Hungarian identity. He added that the applicants received financial support for different purposes: the organization of different cultural and other programs; the publication of books; the operational costs of institutions; and weekend schools. The state secretary added that last year the call for applications entitled “For Hungarian culture and education” contributed to the operation of almost 3,000 Hungarian organizations abroad.



## The date of the restitution trial of the Batthyáneum is changed

At the request of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia, the Supreme Court in Bucharest has brought forward the case of the restitution of the Batthyaneum Library, but even so the trial will start only in May 2021. Answering a question from the Hungarian news agency MTI, the Press Office of the Supreme Court said that the original date for the trial – 9 November 2021 – has been changed to 25 May 2021. The spokesman of the Press Office added that “thousands of cases are waiting for final decision”, and this is why the date is so distant.

## Another nationalist attack against the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely

The Hungarian community of Marosvásárhely has received “an Easter present” from the MP of the Party of the People's Movement (PMP), Marius Pașcan. The politician announced on his Facebook page that – together with the civil society organization led by Dan Tanasă and the Unirea High School (and its parent board) – they would launch a lawsuit against the Romanian Ministry of Education and the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș, because the school had been “illegally relaunched”. According to Mr. Pașcan, when they re-established the school in the summer of 2018 the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) obeyed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and “made an evil political move” violating the laws and the Constitution.



## Péter Szijjártó: the economic development program is a success

In Bratislava/Pozsony, following a meeting with the leaders of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said that “The Hungarian Government’s economic development program in Slovakia and other neighboring countries is extremely successful and will continue”. At his joint press conference with the chairman of the MKP József Menyhárt, Mr. Szijjártó told journalists that “Encouraged by the success of the economic development program in Slovakia, the Government has established a budget of HUF 10 billion/EUR 31 million for the implementation of the Economic Development Program in Slovakia this year”. Mr. Szijjártó told exporters that he and Mr. Menyhárt had discussed the so-called “anthem Act” and the petition launched by the Hungarian party in Slovakia in relation to it. The minister stressed that “Hungary continues to have an interest in maintaining a relationship with Slovakia that is based on mutual respect”. Mr. Szijjártó added that, as on other issues, the Hungarian Government regularly holds consultations with the MKP regarding important questions for the Hungarian community, and this was also the case on this issue”. The minister highlighted that “The fact that we received sound proposals from the MKP is proven by the fact that the Slovakian President of the Republic vetoed the proposed regulation.”



## Community meeting held in Felsőhegy

On Wednesday, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) held a community meeting in Vojvodina’s Felsőhegy/Gornji Breg. The main topic of the event was the approaching EP elections and the importance of voting in them. The majority of Hungarians living in Vojvodina are Hungarian citizens, therefore they have the right to vote in EP elections for the first time. The community also have its own candidate on the list of Fidesz-KDNP, Andor Deli, who represents the interests of not only Vojvodina Hungarians but the interests of the whole of Serbia.



## Comedian Volodymyr Zelensky wins landslide victory in Ukrainian presidential election

On 21 April, the second round of the presidential election was held in Ukraine, in which comedian Volodymyr Zelensky won a landslide victory. After 97.84 percent of the votes has been processed, Mr. Zelensky had 73.15 percent, while the current president Petro Poroshenko had won only 24.53 percent. Mr. Poroshenko managed to win in only one county: Lviv. All the other counties were won by his challenger. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán sent a message of congratulations to Mr. Zelensky. Mr. Orbán wrote: “Please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your



landslide victory with which you have been elected Ukraine's next president." The Hungarian Prime Minister pointed out that the Hungarian government will continue to work for the development of Ukrainian-Hungarian relations. He added that "In these efforts I will count on you, and I look forward to cooperating with you. I wish you all the very best with your responsible duties".

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) welcomed the victory of Volodymyr Zelensky and expressed the hope that the new president will bring a change in the current anti-Hungarian policy of Kiev.



### Head of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation László Hámos dies

On 16 April, the President of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) László Hámos died in New York. Mr. Hámos was known for being a protector of the rights of Hungarian minorities and an influential member of the Hungarian diaspora in America. He was born in 1951 in Paris and raised in New Jersey. After studying international relations and working at law firms, he opened his own legal research and litigation support services company, which he later gave up to work full-time at HHRF.

In a statement issued after his death, Deputy Prime Minister and head of the Christian Democratic People's Party Zsolt Semjén wrote that "we have lost an outstanding figure" of the Hungarian diaspora, the protector of Hungarian minority rights around the world. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that with his devoted work of more than 40 years, Mr. Hámos reached great success in the field of the protection of Hungarians' rights and the strengthening of Hungarian identity around the world.

